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WESLEYAN METHODISTS OF LEEDS !

As the persons who wish to address you, if you will go to hear them, on Wednesday evening next, will ~~now~~ as I can promise you, tell you who they are, but will apprise you, should you ask any awkward questions, that their's is "not a meeting for discussion,"—and as it is but fair that you should know something about your kind and disinterested visitors, I will do them the favour to introduce them to your attention.

NUMBER ONE is SAMUEL WARREN, DOCTOR OF LAWS, who has recently been suspended from his office, as a Travelling Preacher, by an unanimous vote of the Manchester District Meeting.

He has been a Travelling Preacher, for upwards of thirty years :—

And yet his "deep and permanent conviction has FOR SOME TIME been, that such an ascendancy has LONG been sought, and ACTUALLY GAINED, by a certain party in the Wesleyan-Methodist Connexion, as is utterly inconsistent with the liberties of the People, and of the Preachers, and the just and impartial administration of Methodistic Law"!

He duly graduated at the University of Glasgow, during three years, in which he was appointed to superintend that Circuit, and took the degrees, first of A. M., and then of L. L. D.,—and was the first and only man who ever did so, in like circumstances:—

And yet he has written, spoken, and voted, against the establishment of a Wesleyan Theological Institution, on this, amongst other, grounds,—“That the signal success with which it has pleased Almighty God to own the course hitherto pursued, indicates rather the wisdom of walking by the same rule, and minding the same things, than of commencing a new course, HOWEVER SMALL THE DIVERGENCE MAY SEEM AT THE OUTSET”!

He voted, in October, 1833, for the establishment of the Wesleyan Theological Institution :—

And yet, in October, 1834, he sanctioned a resolution, which asserted that such a measure was “fraught with the most deteriorating consequences, to” the “spirituality” of the Connexion, and “likely to be utterly subversive of its character”!

He asserts that he has been illegally suspended, because a certain rule, relative to District Meetings, passed in 1795, repealed all former laws on the subject :—

And yet, in a book, which he calls a “Digest of the Laws of Methodism,” he asserts that certain rules, relating to District Meetings, passed in 1792 and 1793, have “not been obviously and decisively superseded” by any subsequent regulation !

He asserts that the District Meeting, which tried and suspended him, had no power to do so :—

And yet, *in May last*, he was an active party in the proceedings of a District Meeting, constituted in precisely the same way, which suspended a far abler man than himself.

He asserts that he wants "nothing new in Methodism":—And yet he is agitating, up and down the country, for the adoption, by the Conference, of such a system of things as that Methodism "shall afford sufficient shelter, accommodation, and comfort to all those **KINDRED DENOMINATIONS** to which it has given rise,"—that is, to those who like lay-delegation, and to those who don't;—to those who approve of a hired ministry, and hate woman-preaching, and to those who don't;—to those who love the Leeds Special District Meeting of 1827, and to those who don't;—to all sorts and conditions of seceders and separatists from Wesleyan Methodism, "Jews, Turks, Infidels" and all.

He says the proceedings at Leeds, in 1827, were "infamous":

And yet, at the Conference of 1828, he spoke and voted in favour of resolutions, which characterize them as "affectionate," "judicious," "constitutional," and "indispensably necessary"!

He complains that "Preachers are brought to trial, one after another, before Secret District Meetings, and—convicted—of exercising the right of private judgment on political subjects;" and that "these deeds are daringly perpetrated in defiance of the most solemn compact and pledge which the Conference ever conceded to the people":—

And yet, Joseph Rayner Stephens was the very man for whose suspension he voted in May last!

Honest Leeds Methodists! Have you had enough of number One? More briefly with the rest.

NUMBER TWO is WILLIAM SMITH, a Cotton-Spinner, from Stockport, who was recently expelled from the Methodist Society in that Circuit, for being a member of the so-called "Grand Central Association";—who threatened his Superintendent, or your old friend, Francis West, with *an action for turning him out*;—who was the Chairman of the Committee of the high-Tory Candidate for Cheshire, last election, but who has sanctioned an address, which, after an exhortation to agitation, tells us that "agitation, when founded in right, is an engine of *overwhelming DESTRUCTION*," and that "*Parliamentary Reform* is one of its trophies";—and who is supposed to be very anxious to be put into the Commission of the Peace, forgetting that Lord Stamford, the Tory Lord-Lieutenant of Cheshire, will have nothing to do with Radicals, *of any kind*, and that this and some other documents are sure to reach his Lordship; of whose talents you will judge if ever you hear him speak; and of whose learning, if ever you see him spell.*

*Mr. Smith's prominent appearance and interference, at such a time

NUMBERS THREE AND FOUR also are persons who have been expelled from the Society,---one, David Rowland, by your friend, Samuel Jackson, and one, ____ Farrer, by your friend, George Marsden. You remember the old story of the Monkey who lost his tail, and then told his fellow-Monkeys how pleasantly he felt without. Now these men will tell you how remarkably they have been blessed since they were expelled.

NUMBER FIVE is named Lee. He vends Morison's Pills, in Manchester, and, therefore, has orders to do his best to promote the sale of the "Christian Advocate," of which Morison is the part proprietor, and is the man who, last Thursday night week, called the PLAN OF PACIFICATION "a juggle,"---and, of course, Messrs. Bradford, Pawson, Mather, Thompson, Bradburn, Benson, and Moore, and Doctors Coke and Clarke, who drew up that plan, jugglers.

NUMBER SIX is JOHN GORDON, whose *avowed* reason for leaving our Connexion, some two months ago, was the decision of the Conference upon Joseph Rayner Stephens's case, but who is now delivering Lectures on *Methodist Reform*, in the Dudley Circuit.

Now just count them once more.

1. WARREN, who suspended Stephens.
2. GORDON, who left the Connexion because Stephens was suspended.
3. SMITH, the professed friend of Doctor Clarke.
4. LEE, who says Dr. Clarke was a juggler.
- 5 and 6. FARRAR and ROWLAND, who, of course, hate Warren for Stephens's sake, and Lee for Doctor Clarke's sake.

I conclude with a short account of Dr. Warren's Meetings in this neighbourhood :

"All these and more came flocking; but with looks
Down-cast and damp; yet such wherein appeared
Obscure some glimpse of joy, to have found their Chief
Not in despair, to have found themselves not lost
In loss itself;—which on his countenance cast
Like doubtful hue: but he, his wonted pride
Soon recollecting, with high words, that bore
Semblance of worth, not substance, gently raised
Their fainting courage."

Believe me, fellow Methodists,

Your affectionate Brother and Servant,
SOMEBODY WHO KNOWS.

Barton

of hot disturbance as this, and the attentions paid him by Dr. Warren, the present High Priest of Radicalism, remind one of the following passages of Old-Testament History.

"I cast it into the fire,—and there came out *this calf*,"

"And they said, These be thy Gods, O Israel;"

"And when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it."

Exodus, c. 32.

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